

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, October 14, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, October 14, 2025 in the Commissioners' room at the Courthouse. Chairperson Metz announced that the new Open Meetings Law was posted on the wall of the Commissioners' room. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Bayard Transcript and the Bridgeport News-Blade on October 9, 2025. Copies of the Agenda, kept continuously current were available from the County Clerk's office and were e-mailed to each of the Commissioners on October 9, 2025. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Some of the elected and appointed officials were present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Agenda and the minutes of the September 23, 2025 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

GENERAL FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$1,383.32; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,260.39; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$8,697.11; Brennan Andrew, Phone, \$40.00; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$295.00; Bayard Transcript, Subscription & Publishing, \$550.56; Benchmark Government Solutions LLC, Meals, \$105.55; Black Hills Chemical & Janitorial, Supplies, \$68.20; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$78.73; Cynthia J. Brandt-Court Reporter, Law Enforcement Costs, \$188.90; Kathy Brandt, Phone, \$40.00; Bridgeport New-Blade, Publishing, \$479.56; Capital Business Systems, Inc, Equip Lease, \$38.11; Ismael Cardenas, Phone, \$40.00; Cenex Fleet Fueling, Fuel, \$2,971.04; Century Business Products, Supplies, \$153.34; Charter Communications, Service, \$169.99; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$120.54; Clerk of Dist Court, Court Costs, \$72.00; Brandon Collins-Flamig, Phone, \$40.00; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$179.63; Credit Management Services Inc, Garnishment, \$201.74; Culligan of Scottsbluff, Service, \$138.50; Douglas, Kelly, Ostdiek, Snyder Etc, Court Appointed Counsel, \$1,130.00; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$376.28; ESRI Inc, GIS, \$2,560.00; Shauna Faessler, Phone, \$40.00; Fairfield by Marriott, Lodging-Asses, \$809.70; Daniel Flores, Phone, \$40.00; Galls LLC, Uniforms, \$417.91; Grand Slam Solutions LLC, Contract Labor, \$1,500.00; Jamie Holloway, Election, \$575.00; Holyoke, Snyder, Longoria, Etc PC, Court Appointed Counsel, \$130.00; Hometown Leasing, Equip Lease, \$30.48; Steven R. Hutchinson, Landscape Contract, \$615.00; HX3 Handyman Service LLC, Repairs, \$174.50; Jack's Uniforms & Equip, Uniforms, \$1,601.99; Kaiser Tire, Repairs, \$159.99; Susan Kelly, Uniforms, \$114.00; Andrew Lawson, Phone, \$40.00; Audrey M. Long, Public Defender, \$4,687.00; Tim Marquez, Phone, \$40.00; Maximus US Services Inc, Consulting Fees, \$1,925.00; Loretta C. McCoy-Co Treas, Misc, \$25.09; Lori McCoy, Phone, \$40.00; Seth McLaughlin, Phone, \$40.00; Jeff Metz, Phone, \$40.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$161.00; MIPS Inc, Data Processing Costs & Supplies, \$3,197.44; Morrill County Community Hospital, Training & Board of Prisoners, \$1,552.00; Morrill County Court, Court Costs, \$1,157.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,256.42; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$257.05; Morrill County Sheriff, Law Enforcement Costs, \$18.70; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; NE Law Enforcement Training Center, Lodging & Training, \$525.00; NE State Fire Marshal Agency, Inspection, \$120.00; NE Total Office, Supplies, \$1,011.55; Rose Nelson, Phone, \$40.00; Nossaman, Pettitt Law Firm PC LLO, Court Appointed Counsel, \$3,358.17; Panhandle EMS Education, Training, \$1,300.00; Zeth Patterson, Phone, \$40.00; Patty Wax General Service, Mngr, \$1,000.00; PEAC Solutions, Equip Lease, \$606.43; Jason Perkins, Phone, \$40.00; Platte Valley Bank HSA Accts, \$1,072.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$14,530.75; Retchless Technologies LLC, Contract Labor, \$3,000.00; Travis Rodak, Rent, \$675.00; Snell Services Inc, Mntce Contract, \$780.00; Sonny's Super Foods, Board of Prisoners, \$18.98; Star-Herald, Subscript, \$386.99; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Radio Equip, \$213.00; Dr. Gage Stermensky, LLC, Court Costs, \$1,450.00; Stryker Sales LLC, Law Enforcement Supplies, \$425.00; Vision Care Direct, Ins, \$11.04; Shawn D. Weibert, Mileage & Registration, \$207.00; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$211.18; 911 Custom, Law Enforcement Supplies, \$499.97; General Employees Salaries, \$70,276.36.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$109.41; American Family Insurance, Insurance, \$663.73; Ameritas Life Ins Corp, Retirement, \$3,342.51; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$1,248.68; Big State Industrial Supply, Supplies, \$269.63; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$285.39; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$19.36; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip, \$201.43; Caterpillar Financial Services Crop, Equip Lease, \$5,153.05; Century Link, Service, \$141.12; City of Bayard, Service, \$190.03; City of

Bridgeport, Service, \$893.92; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Dooley Oil Inc, Oil, \$264.88; Farmers Irrigation Dist, Road Mtnce, \$396.27; Floyd's Truck Center Inc, Repairs, \$3,730.97; Frank Parts Co, Repairs, \$255.98; Granger, Supplies, \$227.23; Harbor Freight Comm Acct, Tools, \$365.95; Inland Truck Parts & Service, Repairs, \$378.32; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Repairs & Supplies, \$1,413.69; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,139.47; NE Dept of Rev-Fuel Tax, \$761.00; NMC LLC, Repairs, \$261.97; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$6,156.66; Powerplan, Repairs, \$16,519.22; Quill LLC, Supplies, \$148.65; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$531.22; Sapp Bros. Inc, Fuel, \$25,842.33; Steve's Truck & Equip, Repairs, \$155.00; Swanston Equip Corp, Repairs, \$227.38'; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$131.40; WPCI, Testing Fees, \$266.00; David Zwirn, Building Repairs, \$374.80; 21st Century Equip LLC, Repairs, \$1,410.99; Road Employees Salaries, \$29,711.19.

VISITOR'S PROMOTION FUND

Jack Berg, Reimburs, \$137.00; Morrill County Highway Dept, Maintenance, \$1,500.00.

OPIOID RECOVERY FUND

Nein Pharmacy, Medical-Prisoners, \$6.00.

911 FUND

Century Linc, Service, \$162.00.

W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$487.91; Frontier, Misc, \$34.19.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, that the above claims be approved and checks drawn on the various funds, delinquent personal property taxes deducted where owing. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Board of Equalization

See separate minutes for Board of Equalization.

The September minutes of the Morrill County Visitors' Committee were received, reviewed and placed on file.

Chairman Metz opened the Public Hearing at 8:10 A.M. for the One-and Six Year Road program. Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, presented the One-and Six Year Road Program. He talked about removing a bridge from 169 and putting in a culvert. He said he is not sure of the cost yet, but he budgeted \$300,000 for the project. Metz told him to ask Pathfinder to pay a portion of it. Hearing no comments from the public, Chairman Metz closed the Public Hearing at 8:21 A.M. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to accept the One-and Six Year Road Program. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Hoerler also presented the Annual Certification of Program Compliance & the Resolution. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve & sign the Annual Certification of Program Compliance and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-31 SIGNING OF COUNTY ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF PROGRAM COMPLIANCE 2025

Whereas: State of Nebraska Statutes, sections 39-2115, 39-2119, 39-2120, 39-2121, and 39-2510(2), requires an annual certification of program compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and

Whereas: State of Nebraska Statute, section 39-2120 also requires that the annual certification of program compliance by each county shall be signed by the County Board Chairperson and shall include the resolution of the governing body of the county authorizing the signing of the certification.

Be it resolved that the County Board Chairperson of Morrill County is hereby authorized to sign the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance.

Adopted this 14th day of October, 2025 at Bridgeport, Nebraska

County Board Members

/s/Jeff Metz

/s/Susanna Batterman

/s/Josh Schmidt

(S E A L)

Attest:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt

County Clerk

Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Hoerler also presented the Road Quarterly reports for the last year that had to be revised because of an error. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to accept the revised Quarterly reports. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Grady Norman met with the board to inquire about a Search Tool that the Assessor used at the TERC hearings and if it was available for anyone to use. The Board asked Rose Nelson and she said it is available for the public. She said it has been used for about two years and it is through the MIPS system.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented the Unsold Properties that need Tax Sale Certificates issued. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to direct the County Treasurer to issue Tax Sale Certificates and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-32

WHEREAS, The Revised statutes of Nebraska, Sec. 77-1809 and 77-1918 provide that upon the direction of the County Board of Commissioners, for the County Treasurer to issue Tax Sale Certificates in the name of the County and

WHEREAS, The Morrill County Board of Commissioners have received from the Morrill County Treasurer a report listing all parcels of real estate in the County on which any taxes are delinquent and which have been offered for sale at Public Sale, and have remained unsold for want of bidders for a period of three years or more.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morrill County Board directs the Treasurer of Morrill County to place County Tax Sale Certificates on any delinquent real estate taxes for 2021-2023 and prior years.

/s/Loretta McCoy
Morrill County Treasurer

Approved and adopted this 14th day of October, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz
County Commissioner

/s/Susanna Batterman
County Commissioner

(S E A L)

/s/Josh Schmidt
County Commissioner

ATTEST: /s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. McCoy also presented the list of those properties that were delinquent for three years, to be sent to the County Attorney for foreclosure. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to send the properties with delinquent taxes for three years to the County Attorney for foreclosure and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-33

WHEREAS, The Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Sec 77-1901 through 77-1918 provide upon resolution by the County Board of Commissioners for the foreclosure within six (6) months of expiration

of certificate and the sale of Real Estate properties upon which County Tax Sale certificates have been issued and delinquent for three (3) years from the date of issuance,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morrill County Board of Commissioners authorizes the foreclosure of such outstanding Tax Sale Certificates held in the name of Morrill County and requests the County Attorney to proceed to such foreclosure and sale, in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska. A list of these outstanding Tax Sale Certificates is attached.

/s/Loretta McCoy
Morrill County Treasurere

Approved and adopted this 14th day of October, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz
County Commissioner

/s/Susanna Batterman
County Commissioner

/s/Josh Schmidt
County Commissioner

(S E A L)

ATTEST: /s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Metz asked Fellhoelter about forgiving the tax bill on the lot in Bayard, if the City of Bayard would take it over. Fellhoelter said he will check on this.

The Cost Allocation plan was presented from Maximus for renewal. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman to approve and sign the Cost Allocation Plan for Maximus for 2025-2026. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Yvonne L. Lease, with Monument Prevention Coalition, met with the Board to discuss what they do regarding underaged substance abuse, vaping, marijuana and mental health issues in young people. She said that she is meeting with the schools to try and get something implemented to help the young people. She said that one vape pin is equivalent to smoking a whole pack of cigarettes and this is harming people who think it is nothing and the edibles, etc that are out there that are dangerous. Batterman asked Ashley Fenning if the Extension works with kids regarding this. She said they haven't addressed vaping, but they do have a Catch program that educates kids on the dangers. Lease said they were hoping that maybe counties would appoint someone to serve on a board, when they reorganize. She said she would send an email before January to see if someone could be appointed to attend their meetings.

Ryan Patterson reported on the Fairgrounds. He said that the red sheep barn door was bumped into 3 or 4 days ago. He said that he replumbed the wash bay to make it more resilient. He said the water where the old building was has been turned off. He said there are trees that are dead that need to be cut down. Ryan said he can handle the little ones but not the big ones. He said the hog wire fencing needs to be torn out. Jeff asked Milo if he had been to the City meeting and if they had brought up anything about refunding the money that the Farm & Ranch Board paid. He said they wanted the Fair Board or someone to pay for the new transformer they installed which was \$4,300. Cardenas thanked Patterson for allowing the Sheriff and deputies to train out there. He said it worked well.

One applicant for the County Clerk's job was received from Candace Panas. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to go into Executive Session at 9:29 A.M., according to Ne. Statute 884-1410(d) to interview Panas. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session with no action taken at 9:52 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Metz publicly thanked Panas for applying and said her resume was very impressive. Batterman thanked her for her willingness to train for this job. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to appoint Candace Panas to the position of Morrill County Clerk, beginning January 1, 2026. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reported on meeting they had attended. Schmidt said he attended the District meeting and the Aging Office meeting. He said they are working with the state to get their money. He reported on the meals served in Bayard and Bridgeport. Batterman said she had the Region I Behavioral Health meeting. She said they are working with the Kimball Hospital for Mental Health issues. Metz reported on the CAPWN meeting and the Fair Board meeting. He said they hope to get a building up before July.

Batterman asked Rose Nelson if the day she was having Jeanne help her with her sign, at 2 in the afternoon, if Jeanne was on the clock. Nelson said she was not.

Rudy and Ramon Dominguez visited with the Board about growing marijuana.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 10:15 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

Board of Equalization
Tuesday, October 14, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:47 A.M., Tuesday, October 14, 2025 in the Commissioners room at the Courthouse. Chairperson Metz announced that the Open Meetings Law was posted on the wall of the Commissioners' room. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Bayard Transcript and the Bridgeport News-Blade on October 9, 2025. Copies of the Agenda, kept continuously current were available from the County Clerk's Office and were e-mailed to each of the Commissioners on October 8, 2025. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Rose Nelson, County Assessor, and Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer were present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne Statute #77-1233.04(6) at 7:47 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Kathy Brandt, County Clerk, presented the levies for Morrill County for 2025-2026. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to adopt the levies for Morrill County and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-30

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute #13-508 requires all political subdivisions within Morrill County to file and certify to the Morrill County Board of Equalization a copy of the adopted budget and a copy of the adopted statement with the amount of real property tax required to fund their adopted budget; and

WHEREAS, the Morrill County Board of Equalization has received copies of adopted statements of real and personal property tax requirements from all political subdivisions whose certified valuation in Morrill County is greater than certified valuation in other counties; and

WHEREAS, Ne. Revised Statute #77-1602 requires that the Morrill County Board of Equalization levy the necessary taxes for political subdivisions on or before October 20th of each year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Equalization of Morrill County, Nebraska as follows:

That the levies of local political subdivisions for fiscal year 2025-2026 be established based on the attached document (Levy Sheet Attachment) which is incorporated into and is considered a part of this resolution.

That final levies for other political subdivisions with certified valuation in Morrill County less than certified valuation in other counties must be set by the Board of Equalization in the County with the greatest certified valuation.

Adopted this 14th day of October, 2025.

Morrill County Board of Commissioners
Morrill County Board of Equalization

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairman
/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member
/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

MORRILL COUNTY LEVIES
2025-2026

POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	GENERAL	SPECIAL BLDG	BOND	CAPITAL IMPROV	TOTAL
SCHOOL DISTRICTS					
21-BAYARD	1.034555	0.006591	0.050702		1.091848
63-BRIDGEPORT	0.866915		0.086261		0.953176
CEMETERY DISTRICTS		SINKING			
ANGORA	0.010949				0.010949
BAYARD	0.042631				0.042631
BRIDGEPORT	0.013840				0.013840
BROADWATER	0.003678	0.000041			0.003719
REDINGTON	0.001844	0.000769			0.002613
FIRE DISTRICTS		GENERAL	SINKING		
#1 (BRIDGEPORT)	0.016014		0.002193		0.018207
#3 (BAYARD)	0.027069				0.027069
#4 (BROADWATER)	0.086211				0.086211
CITIES/VILLAGES		GENERAL	BOND		
BAYARD	0.365949				0.369549
BRIDGEPORT	0.305116				0.305116
BROADWATER	0.297531				0.297531
COUNTY LEVY FUNDS					
GENERAL	0.285995				0.285995
HOSPITAL BOND FUND	0.011979				0.011979
TOTAL	0.297974				0.297974

We, the Morrill County Board of Commissioners, acting as a Board of Equalization, do hereby certify the above levies for Morrill County, to be true and correct to the best of our knowledge.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2025

Morrill County Board of
Commissioners

/s/Jeff Metz
/s/Susanna Batterman
/s/Josh Schmidt

(S E A L)

Attest:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, met with the Board regarding the Tax List Corrections #2025 – 43-49, that the Assessor gave to her to change. She questioned whether she could make

the changes since the Board did not approved them. Rose Nelson, County Assessor, said she could because TERC had ruled in her favor.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to return to regular session at 8:06 A.M.
Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

/s/Jeff Metz ,Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk